

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 8, 2004, has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. Claims 1, 4, and 7 have been amended. Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled. The drawings and specification have been amended. In view of the foregoing amendments and the reasons that follow, claims 1-7 are pending and are submitted for reconsideration.

Drawing Objections

The drawings are objected to for various informalities. Figure 3 is objected to for failing to include dashed or phantom lines showing how all the parts fit together. Applicant submits that Figure 3 clearly shows the relationship or order of assembly of the various parts as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(h)(1). Accordingly, Figure 3 has not been amended to include phantom lines. Figure 1 is objected to because reference numeral 1 is underlined. Figure 1 has been amended appropriately. The drawings are objected to because "16b" on page 6, line 7 should be "16d." (Office Action at p. 3.) Applicant notes that there is no reference numeral "16b" in line 7 of page 6 and submits that all references to the base portion 16a, the extending portion 16b, the upright portion 16c, and the tab portion 16d in paragraphs [0026] to [0028] on pages 6 and 7 are correct and are illustrated, for example, in Figure 3.

The drawings are objected to because "[c]ontrary to page 7, line 20 part 61 is not L shaped." (Office Action at p. 3.) Figure 2 has been amended to include reference numeral 61. As illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the base portion 61 clearly includes an L-shaped portion (i.e., the portion that overlaps the outer sides and the end of the projecting portion 42) as explained in paragraph [0033] of the specification. The drawings are objected to because "there is no Figure 5(a) in the drawings." (Office Action at p. 3.) Accordingly, paragraph [0020] in the Brief Description of the Drawings has been amended to refer to Figs. 5(a) and (b). Finally, the drawings are objected to for failing to show "a leaf spring" as recited in claim 4. Claim 4 has been amended to delete the recitation of a leaf spring. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Specification Objections

The specification is objected to because the term “bolds” on pages 5 and 6 should be “bolts.” The specification has been amended appropriately. The specification is also objected to because “[t]here is no support in the specification for claim 6.” (Office Action at p. 4.) In accordance with M.P.E.P. § 2163.02, Applicant submits that the subject matter of claim 6 finds adequate support in the specification, for example, at paragraphs [0050] to [0052] and in Figure 5(a). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the specification is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. Claim 7 has been amended appropriately, and claims 8 and 9 have been canceled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicant appreciates the indication that claim 9 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 7 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 8 and 9, and claims 8 and 9 have been canceled. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant submits that claim 7 is in condition for allowance because claim 7 is directed to subject matter that the PTO has indicated to be patentable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 7 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,257,615 (Bohn). Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,517,099 (Igawa). The rejections should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

In view of the amendments discussed above, Applicant submits that claim 7 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 as anticipated by Igawa is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claim 1 as anticipated by Bohn should also be withdrawn because Bohn fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all the features of claim 1. For example, Bohn fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a reinforcing member that "is attached to the projecting portion and covers an exposed end portion of the projecting portion" as recited in claim 1. In contrast, Bohn discloses a mounting flange 13 that is attached to a circumferential web 19 of an airbag module cover 3. (Bohn at col. 3, lines 64-66.) As shown in Fig. 1, however, the mounting flange 13 does not cover the end portion of the circumferential web 19. For at least this reason, Bohn does not disclose, teach, or suggest all the features of claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 as anticipated by Bohn is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to further patentable limitations contained therein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-6 are respectfully requested.

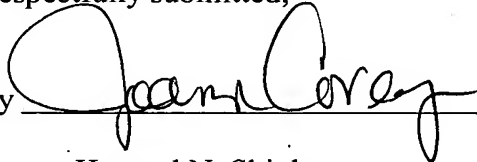
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the phone number listed below.

Date December 1, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

Please amend Figures 1 and 2 by replacing the immediate prior versions of the drawing sheets with the replacement sheets of drawings appended to this document. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d), all changes to the drawings are explained in detail in the remarks section below and shown on the attached annotated sheets.

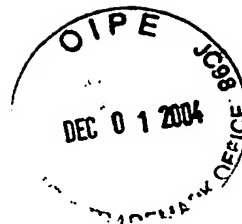


FIG. 1

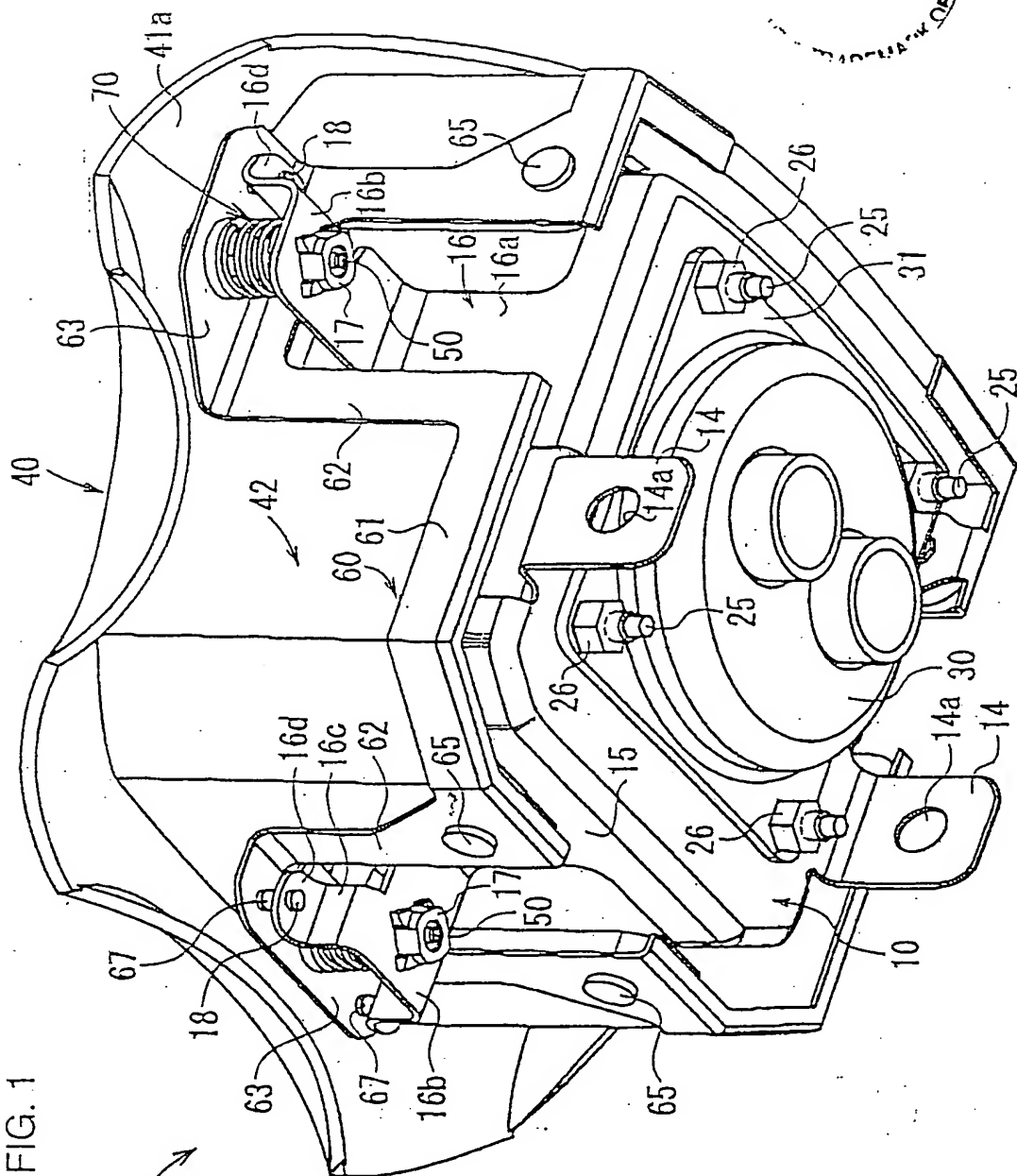


FIG. 2

